

CLAIMS

5 1. A non-human transgenic mammal which comprises cells containing a construct of a heat shock protein (hsp) promoter linked to the growth hormone (GH) gene sequence.

10 2. A non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 1, wherein the heat shock protein promoter is hsp70 gene promoter.

3. A non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 1, which is a rodent.

15 4. A non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 3, which is a mouse.

5. A method for the study of chemical, physical and biological toxic agents which comprises:

18 a) exposing the transgenic mammal of ~~claims 1-4~~ <sup>claim 1</sup> to the toxic agent;

20 b) determining the effect through measurement of the hematic concentration of the reporter-gene.

25 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the same animal is used for repeated tests with the same or different toxic agent.

7. A method according to ~~claims 5-6~~ <sup>claim 5</sup>, for the study of toxicity kinetics of one or more toxic agents.

8. A method according to ~~claims 5-6~~ <sup>claim 5</sup>, for the study of heat stress.

30 9. A method according to ~~claims 5-6~~ <sup>claim 5</sup>, for the study of metal toxicity.

10. A method according to claim 9 for the study of toxicity of metals selected from the group consisting of Rb, Cu, Hg, As and Cd.

11. The use of the transgenic mammal of claim 1 for in vivo toxicity studies.

12. The use of a transgenic animal according to claim 11, wherein said animal is a mouse.

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